

(Washington, DC) – Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) today announced that Central New Jersey will benefit from COPS Hiring Recovery Grants, which fund the hiring and rehiring of law enforcement officers. As part of this funding, Trenton will receive \$2.95 million for 18 additional officers, while Frenchtown will receive \$204,618 to hire a new officer for three years. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, for which Holt voted, the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) is distributing \$1 billion to 1,046 law enforcement agencies across the nation in an effort to create and preserve jobs.

"This is an example of how the recovery bill is creating jobs and helping communities, in this case by keeping their citizens safe," Holt said. "These recovery grants help reverse the recent cuts to local police departments and offer welcome reinforcements for our current law enforcement officers, who work hard every day to protect us all."

The COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) offers grants directly to local law enforcement agencies for the hiring of new, full-time officers and also the rehiring of experienced ones. The competitive grants provide complete funding for these officers' entry-level salaries and benefits for three years.

In April 2009, Holt voted for the COPS Improvement Act (H.R. 1139), which would raise the CHRP authorization level to \$1.25 billion, allowing state and local law enforcement to hire even more officers. The bill, of which Holt was an original cosponsor, passed the House and currently is awaiting consideration in the Senate.